

Mike McGinn, Mayor **Department of Planning and Development** Diane M. Sugimura, Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 15, 2010

TO: Council President Richard Conlin, Chair

Regional Development and Sustainability Committee

FROM: Andrea Petzel, Senior Planner

RE: Proposed Code Changes for Urban Agriculture

DPD is proposing Land Use Code changes to help increase the sustainability and security of Seattle's local food system. Using City Council Resolution 31019, the Local Food Action Initiative, and engaging community stakeholders to guide our efforts, the Department of Planning and Development has identified several important code changes that would:

- 1. Refine definitions for Horticulture, Aquaculture and Animal Husbandry.
- 2. Add a definition to the land use code for "Urban Farm," which allows for growing and selling of food onsite, as follows:
 - Residential zones uses up to 4,000 SF allowed outright as accessory use, and administrative conditional use permit for greater than 4,000 SF;
 - Commercial zones allowed outright as principal or accessory use with no size of use limits;
 - Industrial zones allowed on rooftops and sides of buildings, and anywhere on the lot outside designated Manufacturing and Industrial Centers (MICs).
- 3. Define "Community Garden" and allow outright in all zones as a principal or accessory use (limitations would apply in industrial zones in Manufacturing and Industrial Centers).
- 4. Allow greenhouses dedicated to food production to extend 15 feet above height limits in certain zones.
- 5. Allow existing urban horse farms to continue to operate in residential zones.
- 6. Increase the number of chickens allowed from three to eight and prohibit roosters.
- 7. Add farmers markets to the definition of multipurpose uses, to clarify that they are allowed in commercial zones.

These code changes would allow small scale agricultural endeavors, promote more productive use of public and private open spaces, and increase the capacity of underused areas such as rooftops to be used for food production. Expanding opportunities for the production and distribution of locally grown food is an important step toward the long-term sustainability and security of Seattle's food system. Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation. I am available to answer any questions you may have.